

AQUATIC TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES 03/25/04

Attendees: Bob McDowell, Mark Stotts, Larry Gerard, George Jordan, Brad Schmitz, Dave Zafft, Joe Platz, Jeremy Zumberge, Paul Beels, Paula Guenther-Gloss (phone), Brad Rogers (phone).

- Bob passed out meeting agenda, stated the Charter was complete and accepted. Paul received no comments on our charter from the IWG.
- Looked at BLM Draft Monitoring and Annual Report, Executive Summary and manpower requirements and costs.
- Alan Schultz (BLM Hydrologist), gave out a handout on on-going water monitoring in CBM areas. Discussed what areas were being monitored, what info. is showing, and what future monitoring is needed.
- Discussion on USGS monitoring efforts in CBM areas, ie. Bio. Group (Dick Smith); Hydro. Group (Rick Healy); Veg. group (?) – need to get contact names and numbers so our Aquatic group knows what information is being gathered.
- Discussion about amphib./herp. Monitoring, is this our groups responsibility or the wildlife groups (?). Pete Ramiriz (FWS) is interested in salamander die-offs seen, (could be kitrid fungus or rana virus). BLM observed a lot of salamanders at the discharge site along juniper draw.
- Joe mentioned that MT. BLM doing some amphibian monitoring on the Tongue.
- Leopard frogs observed on CBM discharge waters near Recluse.
- Brad mentioned that Ute's Ladies Tresses are a concern in the Antelope Creek drainage in SW Campbell county, (what effect does CBM discharge water have on this plant). This plant is considered part of the wildlife task group mandate.
- Paul mentioned the primary issue from the ROD for the EIS was "what effect does CBM water have on fish and macroinvertebrates, so there will be a need to coor. Monitoring with the water task group.
- Showed BLM map of proposed POD development in WY.
- Discussion about agenda #5, should monitoring occur on both Fed and private development? Probably both as CBM effects are the same.
- Discussion about the monitoring plan outline- strategy, ID priority watersheds; MT is seining fish #'s and ID; develop protocols on last years survey, ie. Basic water chemistry, stream measurements; WY will get data on Powder River.
- Added MT watersheds to list and prioritize.
- Watershed Priorities (Bob entered the priorities on his computer)
- Lunch break
- Group narrowed down high priority watersheds for monitoring.
- Discussion over comments on monitoring plan. Task group responsible to say what, where, how?
- Discussion on Cumulative effects; the affected environ. In the EIS (pg3-50), mainly addresses cumulative effects from coal mines.
- Upper Tongue-high stream flows important.
- Need a map that shows grandfathered discharge points as well as survey areas.
- How important is habitat analysis?

- Group decided to break out and work on monitoring protocols and maps for next meeting.
- Macroinvert. monitoring protocol – Jeremy
- Maps showing on-going discharge and water monitoring locations – Joe, Jeremy and Larry.
- Amphibian monitoring protocol- Brad Rogers, Paula
- Fish monitoring protocol- Brad Schmitz, Dave Z., Paula
- Habitat monitoring protocol – George J. and Joe P.
- Next meeting to be in April, Larry will poll the group and see which date(s) is best. Group felt a 2 day meeting where ½ day could be discussion and ½ day to go to CBM areas to look at discharge and other sites would be good.
- Meeting adjourned.